



**NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Brasilia, Brazil, October 13, 2013**

Draft Summary

1. Welcoming remarks by the President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians, Senator Diva Gastélum

The President welcomed the Executive Committee members and the Brazilian parliamentarians attending as observers. She thanked the Brazilian Assembly for hosting the COPA General Assembly and the Network's Annual Meeting. She emphasized the importance of Brazil's participation in COPA and the Network of Women Parliamentarians. She also thanked the UNALE for hosting the Executive Committee meeting at its head office.

2. Approval of the agenda and verification of quorum

The President read the agenda, which was approved as presented. Quorum had already been validated in accordance with the Network's Statutes, which require the presence of at least one third of its members representing at least three different geographic regions. The following members were present:

- Diva Gastélum, Senator and President of the Network
- Marie Bouillé, MNA and representative of the Secretariat of the Network
- Mireya Zamora Alvarado, Deputy and representative for Central America
- Alicia Gutiérrez, Deputy and representative of the Mercosur Parliamentary Union
- María Conceição Vieira Santos, Deputy and representative for the Southern Cone region

3. Approval of the list of observers in attendance

The President thanked the Brazilian legislators attending the meeting. The Executive Committee members approved the presence of observers.

4. Approval of the report of the Executive Committee meeting held in Mexico on November 30, 2012

The report was adopted as presented.

5. Information on the Second Consultation with Women Parliamentarians of the Americas and signing of a cooperation agreement between the Network and the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS)

The President of the Network stated that a first consultation had been carried out in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in July 2012, as part of a collaborative project undertaken by the Network and the CIM. The main goal of the Consultation was to develop a pan-American initiative to strengthen the capacity for incidence and for fiscalization of legislative commissions and parliamentary groups on women and gender equality. The President submitted the report, prepared following the Consultation; the report is also available on the Network's website.

The goal of the Second Consultation is to establish the priorities for a legislative agenda promoting women's rights and gender equality in the Americas. The President noted that a cooperation agreement between the Network and the CIM will be signed before the Second Consultation, and she invited all members to arrive early to attend that important event.

6. Review of the draft agenda for the 11th Annual Meeting of the Network and study of draft resolutions

The agenda for the 11th Annual Meeting of the Network was approved as presented.

The following two draft resolutions were read:

- a) Resolution: "Poverty, wage equality and economic empowerment of women"; and
- b) Resolution: "Network of Women Parliamentarians for water, a compromise for a better future: women, water and sustainable development".

The members of the Executive Committee agreed to use the term "gender equality" instead of "gender equity".

7. Study of and recommendation on a draft amendment to the Statutes of the Network of Women Parliamentarians

The President explained that this item was added to the agenda to take into account the written request, received in November 2012, from deputies Gloria Bidegaín and Mireya Zamora, to amend the Statutes to allow the re-election of the President. As required by procedure, the amendment was officially included in the agenda of the Annual Meeting so that delegates could make a decision before electing the members of the next Executive Committee.

The President emphasized that it was important to study and make a recommendation on the draft amendment to the Statutes, in order to submit it to the delegates attending the Annual Meeting the following day. She said that priority had been given to amending the Statutes instead of establishing a political agreement, in order to ensure the legitimacy of the next mandate of the Network's President.

Deputy Mireya Zamora submitted the draft amendment for study by the other Executive Committee members. It proposes amending sections 5 and 6 of the Statutes and amending a paragraph of the Rules of Procedure.

Deputy Alicia Gutiérrez, Senator Hilda Flores, MNA Marie Bouillé and Deputy Ileana Brenes indicated that they were in favour of making it possible to renew the term of office of the President through the official adoption of an amendment to the Statutes.

The President specified that two options were available:

- allow a single renewal of the term of office of the President and the Vice-President; or
- allow a single renewal of the term of office of the President and not allow the re-election of the Vice-President.

Deputies Zamora and Gutiérrez indicated their approval of a single renewal of the term of office of the President. Deputy Gutiérrez mentioned that such a change could entail a less frequent rotation among the positions of authority and that it would be important to promote the Network in order to increase the participation of new women parliamentarians in its activities.

Deputy Aixa Hevia Gonzales of Cuba indicated her preference for the re-election of the President and the Vice-President.

After the discussions, Executive Committee members came to a consensus on the following amendment to sections 5 and 6 of the Statutes and to the Rules of Procedure: that the term of office of the President may be renewed once only and that the Vice-President cannot be re-elected.

8. Information on the elections of the Executive Committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians for the 2013–2015 term

The President reminded members that the draft amendment to the Statutes would have to be presented and submitted for a vote at the Annual Meeting the following day. Deputy Inés Pandelo accepted to present the draft amendment.

The President reminded interested members of the necessity of filling all the vacant representative positions on the Executive Committee and the importance of filling out the candidacy form for the election. She invited Senator Hilda Flores of Mexico, Deputy Aixa Hevia González of Cuba, Deputy Segundina Flores of Bolivia and Deputy Liliane Roriz of Brazil to submit their candidacies.

9. Miscellaneous

President Gastélum submitted a draft work plan for 2013–2015 for approval by the new Executive Committee to be elected the following day.

She underlined the necessity of establishing indicators for promoting the Network and increasing the participation of women parliamentarians.

The following themes were proposed for the next mandate:

- Violence against women
- Women immigrants
- The impacts of climate change on women (agriculture and food safety sector)
- Maternal and infant mortality
- Women's access to justice and legal protection
- Women's sexual and reproductive rights
- Review of local agendas from a gender perspective
- Unsafe abortions

Lastly, MNA Marie Bouillé of the National Assembly of Québec extended an official invitation to the President and the other Executive Committee members to participate in the Interparliamentary Seminar on the 20th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Québec City on January 21 and 22, 2014.